



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,586	04/08/2004	Boris Mayer	30691/DP008	8111
4743 7590 01/08/2007 MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP 233 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 6300 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606			EXAMINER BANGACHON, WILLIAM L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/08/2007	PAPER	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/820,586

Applicant(s)

MAYER ET AL.

Examiner

William L. Bangachon

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) ✓  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/30/2006.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: Examiner's comments.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/31/2006 has been entered.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2612

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 5,774,053 {hereinafter 'Porter'} in view of USP 5,212,644 {hereinafter 'Gokcebay et al'}.

In claim 13, Porter teach of a electronic storage device (10) (the electronic parcel compartment system) with a user interface (26, 30) {col. 3, lines 42+}, for the delivery and pickup of goods, the user interface comprising a keypad (26) (the means for acquiring information from registered users of the electronic parcel compartment system) {col. 6, lines 6-15}, the electronic storage device comprises means for assigning a registered user (i.e. delivery person, employee, customer) with vendor codes, employee codes, and homeowner codes (i.e. user groups) {col. 5, lines 37-52+; col. 7, lines 46-50+} and being provided with a system control that allows the registered user (i.e. delivery person, employee, customer) to have access to a selection of several functions (such as locking, unlocking, notify customers, turn on AC or heating) of the electronic parcel compartment system, depending on the user group (i.e. vendors, homeowners, apartment dwellers) to which the user belongs {col. 6, lines 6-15+; col. 7, lines 8-12+}.

Porter does not disclose expressly **“activating a function that causes an essentially simultaneous opening of several parcel compartments”**. Gokcebay et al, in the same field of endeavor, teach of a system for receiving and delivering articles utilizing automated bank of lockers as shown in Figures 1-3. Customers can place orders through a vendors website {Gokcebay, col. 3, lines 19-51+}. “A delivery person (i.e. registered user) associated with a vendor (i.e. user group) can open the locker by using a special key or keying in a special code, either on a terminal or on a keypad” (i.e. activating a function) {Gokcebay, paragraph bridging cols. 2 and 3; col. 5, lines 4-8+}. “The delivery person can request four compartments for four different deliveries but simultaneous deliveries, and four available locker compartment doors will open” (i.e. an essentially simultaneous opening of several parcel compartments) {Gokcebay, col. 5, lines 4-8+}. Gokcebay suggests that such features is advantageous because it alleviates the difficulties of many two income families receiving packages at home, and alleviates the suffering of delivery companies delivering the packages as they very often have to make several trips to deliver and obtain signature {Gokcebay, col. 1, lines 9-19+}. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of applicant's invention, to include “an essentially simultaneous opening of several parcel compartments” in the system of Porter because, as taught by Gokcebay, it alleviates the difficulties of many two income families receiving packages at home, and alleviates the suffering of delivery companies delivering the packages as they very often have to make several trips to deliver and obtain signature.

In claim 15, the means for assigning users to user groups (46) is connected to the user interface (26, 30) in such a way that the information acquired from the user interface is available to said means for the assignment of the users {Porter, col. 5, lines 37+}.

In claims 14 and 16, the means for assigning the users (i.e. delivery personnel, customers) to user groups (46) (i.e. vendors, companies, homeowners) makes this assignment on the basis of information transmitted via a data line {Porter, col. 6, lines 6-7; Figure 5}.

In claim 17, the assignment to the user groups is performed by acquiring user identification information and by making a comparison of the user identification information to an entry in a database {Porter, col. 6, lines 6-15, lines 30-51}.

In claim 18, wherein different access authorizations to functions of the electronic parcel compartment system can be selected for different user groups {Porter, col. 6, lines 42+}.

In claim 19, at least one of certain parcel compartments and groups of parcel compartments are accessible only to certain user groups {Porter, col. 8, lines 12-22}.

In claim 20, the assignment of the parcel compartments to the user groups can be changed {Porter, col. 7, lines 46-50}.

Claim 12 recites a method for practicing the system of claim 13, and therefore rejected for the same reasons.

***Office Contact Information***

Art Unit: 2612

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to William Bangachon whose telephone number is **(571)-272-3065**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on **(571)-272-7308**. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300** for regular and After Final formal communications. The Examiner's fax number is **(571)-273-3065** for informal communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

Application/Control Number: 10/820,586

Art Unit: 2612

Page 7



William L Bangachon  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2635

December 8, 2006



WENDY R. GARBER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600